

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01

ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 AF-08 NEA-10 SAM-01

SAJ-01 NRC-05 /163 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7107

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1752

FROM LOSDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS PARM

SUBJECT: LOS -- PEACEFUL USES OF OCEAN SPACE

ATTENTION: D/LOS, L, ARA, EA, EUR, PM, ACDA

1. SUMMARY. 23 APRIL PLENARY SESSION ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OCEAN SPACE; ZONES OF PEACE AND SECURITY CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS: STRONG OPENING REMARKS BY ECUADOR, COMMENTS BY CHINA AND A BITTER AND CHAOTIC CHINESE-SOVIET WRANGLE THAT LED TO WALKOUT BY EAST EUROPEANS (EXCEPT ALBANIA AND ROMANIA).

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2. AMB. RODRIGUEZ (ECUADOR) IN HIS REMARKS MADE THE FOLLOWING

VERBATIM STATEMENTS. "IT HAS ALREADY BEEN RECOGNIZED IN MANY INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND AGREEMENTS THAT THE USE OF THE OCEAN SPACE FOR EXCLUSIVELY PEACEFUL PURPOSES MUST MEAN COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION AND THE EXCLUSION FROM IT OF ALL MILITARY ACTIVITIES. THE THREAT OF USE OF FORCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, FORTIFICATIONS, BASES AND FACILITIES AS WELL AS NUCLEAR TESTING HAD TO BE PROHIBITED." THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THIS MISINTERPRETATION OF "PEACEFUL USES" NECESSITATED THE U.S., WHO INTENDED TO REMAIN SILENT DURING THE DEBATE, TO EXERCISE ITS OPTION TO SPEAK.

3. THE FOLLOWING VERBATIM TEXT WAS DELIVERED BY
AMB. LEARSON:

"THERE ARE DRAFT ARTICLES UNDER CONSIDERATION IN VARIOUS COMMITTEES REQUIRING THAT ACTIVITIES BE CONDUCTED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED TEXTS TO THIS EFFECT.

THE TERM "PEACEFUL PURPOSES" DOES NOT, OF COURSE, PRECLUDE MILITARY ACTIVITIES GENERALLY. IT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE CONDUCT OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. ANY SPECIFIC LIMITATION ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES WOULD REQUIRE THE NEGOTIATION OF A DETAILED ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT. THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT CHARGED WITH SUCH A PURPOSE; IT IS NOT PREPARED FOR SUCH A NEGOTIATION; AND TRYING TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO SUCH A COMPLEX TASK COULD QUICKLY BRING TO AN END OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION."

4. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE FOLLOWING COMMENT MADE BY
AMB. LAI YA-LI (CHINA) IN HIS ADDRESS TO PLENARY:

"AMBITIOUS SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM, IN PARTICULAR, HAD ALWAYS MADE ITS PURSUIT OF MARITIME HEGEMONISM AN IMPORTANT PART OF ITS GLOBAL STRATEGY IN ITS CONTENTION WITH THE OTHER SUPER-POWER FOR WORLD HEGEMONY. IT
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HAD FRANTICALLY STOPPED UP THE EXPANSION OF ITS NAVAL FORCES, DEVELOPING NUCLEAR SUBMARINES, BUILDING OFFENSIVE OCEAN GOING FLEETS WHOSE STRENGTH HAD SURPASSED THAT OF ITS RIVAL, AND ALSO BUILDING HUGE FISHING FLEETS, MERCHANT FLEETS AND FLEETS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STUDY." THE CONTINUED CONDEMNING TONE OF THESE REMARKS TO THE SOVIETS LOW KEY AND UNINTERESTING (WITH EXCEPTION OF NUMEROUS CITINGS OF THE CPSU) COMMENTS INITIATED A HARSH

"RIGHT OF REPLY", DUEL WHICH BECAME PROCEDURALLY INCORRECT AND LATER IN THE DEBATE RESULTED IN A COORDINATED WALKOUT BY EAST EUROPEANS (EXCEPT ALBANIA AND ROMANIA) WHILE AMB LAI YA-LI WAS EXERCISING HIS RIGHT OF REPLY.

5. IN ADDITION, OTHER SPEAKERS WERE ROMANIA, MADAGASCAR, IRAQ, BULGARIA, CUBA, AND MALTA. THE DEBATE CONCLUDED UNEVENTFULLY ON 26 APRIL WITH SIX ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, PHILIPPINES, IRAN, SOMALIA, PAKISTAN, AND TUNISIA.

6. THE "PEACEFUL USES OF OCEAN SPACE DEBATE, REQUESTED BY PERU, COULD HAVE DESTROYED THE CONFERENCE. FORTUNATELY, THE DEBATE WAS IDEOLOGICAL AND SHOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON CONFERENCE.

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